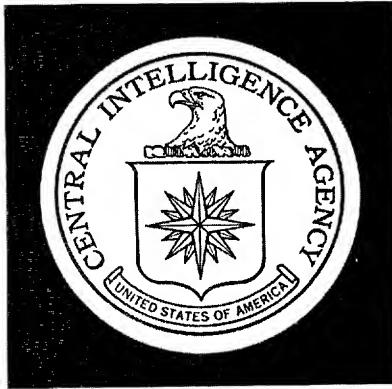


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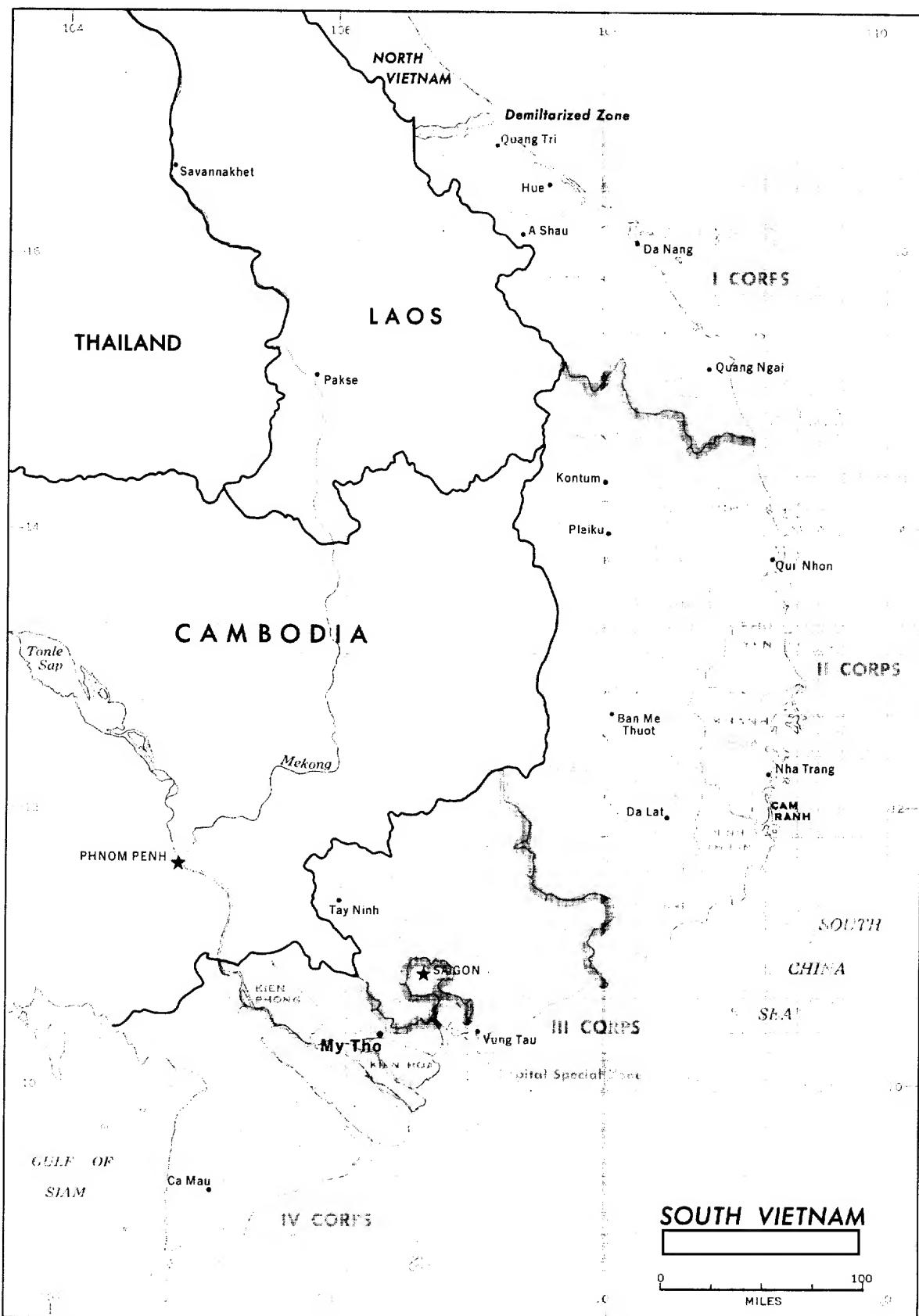
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South Vietnam: Except for sharp ground fighting at allied initiative in several sectors of the northern delta, little military activity of major significance was reported on 4-5 November.

In the delta actions, battalion-size Viet Cong forces offered stiff resistance to South Vietnamese Army sweep operations in Kien Hoa and Kien Phong provinces. Preliminary reports indicate collective ARVN losses of 22 killed and 105 wounded, compared with reported enemy losses of only five killed.

Scattered enemy mortar attacks in all four corps areas occurred, although resulting casualties and damage were light. The provincial capital of My Tho and at least four district towns in III and IV Corps were among the most significant urban targets to be struck with light volumes of mortar fire. The My Tho attack was the fourth since 1 November.

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Hanoi is apparently not insisting on the cessation of US aerial reconnaissance of North Vietnam as a precondition for moving on in the Paris talks, at least not at this point.

In a statement of 5 November, the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry denounced the continuing overflights as well as the alleged "intensification" of the war in the South and called for an end to such actions. The statement, however, like other official Hanoi pronouncements issued since the bombing halt was couched in the context of a long-term settlement and did not appear to present any serious obstacles to the Paris discussions.

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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Czechoslovak liberals and conservatives are heading toward a series of confrontations.

There may be street clashes between the young people and the pro-Soviet hardliners on 7 November, when Prague and other cities reluctantly commemorate the anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Hardliners are said to be planning nationwide displays of strength and of support for Moscow, even though public assemblies are banned. Czechoslovak troops allegedly have been moved nearer to downtown Prague.

There is increasing concern among the party and the public, which have remained loyal to Dubcek, that Soviet backed conservative leaders will try to oust him when the central committee plenum meets on 14 November. The plenum has been called to approve a party document which is more responsive to demands for "normalization." The draft document, proposed by the Dubcek leadership, is likely to be criticized by the conservatives in the central committee, as well as by the liberals and others who believe that it goes too far to accommodate the Soviets and the Czechoslovak conservatives. In addition, intellectuals, both inside and outside the party, appear to be forming a united front in opposition to the hardliners.

The Soviet press has again taken up the cudgels against Czechoslovak "rightists." Pravda on 4 November charged that members of the Czechoslovak party and media, supported by unnamed party leaders, were launching an offensive against Communists who are defending "genuine" party positions. Pravda's expression of "hope" that "antisocialist" elements would be rebuffed at the central committee meeting indicates that Moscow still expects the Czechoslovak party itself to turn to an acceptable course.

The East Germans, who have been consistently harsh toward the Dubcek leadership, anticipated the renewed Soviet charges by one day, publishing a

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full-page attack in their own party paper, Neues Deutschland. Pankow accused the Czechoslovak leadership of failing to carry out an effective struggle against antisocialist forces and imperialist agents. In addition, the Polish party paper, Trybuna Ludu, on 3 November criticized the "situation" in Czechoslovakia and attacked Dubcek by name. [redacted]

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Peru-Czechoslovakia: The Peruvian military government is pushing ahead with the policy of expanding relations with the Communist countries begun by the Belaunde administration.

A commercial accord with Czechoslovakia, negotiated since the military took over on 3 October, was signed recently. This agreement provides for increased Peruvian exports, including manufactured goods, and imports of industrial machinery and equipment. In addition, the agreement provides for technical assistance to Peru and includes Czechoslovak offers to supply hydroelectric plants and investment credits of US \$6 million to the Peruvian central bank.

The agreement also states the interest of both countries in the "re-establishment of diplomatic relations in the near future" and expresses "mutual respect for the sovereignty of each country whatever its economic or social system." Although this is the first accord negotiated with a Communist country since the military took over, the new government had earlier ratified a commercial agreement with Hungary negotiated by former president Belaunde and on its own initiative it had begun conversations with the USSR. [redacted]

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NOTES

Jordan: The conflict between terrorists and Jordanian authorities in Amman has diminished, but sporadic clashes are still occurring in the city. King Husayn met on 4 November with leaders of various terrorist groups and handed them a list of tough restrictive regulations. The terrorists have tentatively agreed to the new rules, but insisted that the curfew be lifted and that the army be removed from Amman. The King agreed yesterday to lift the curfew, but reimposed it after only six hours. He refused to move out the army. There remains a strong likelihood that further clashes will occur.

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Brazil: Terrorists belonging to the right-wing "Communist Hunters Command" have conducted three armed attacks in Recife in the last two weeks. In the latest incident on 1 November, 20 to 30 well-armed men invaded the campus of the Federal Rural University and extensively damaged student organization offices. The group reportedly plans to ransack the offices of a nearby rural workers' union and to kidnap a left-wing student leader. These attacks may set off retaliatory action by leftists and generate a new cycle of violence. As of now local security forces seem to be deliberately ignoring the incidents.

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Norway - West Germany: German press sources have announced the sale of 110 Leopard tanks to Norway. It was expected that Oslo would choose the Leopard, but contract negotiations have delayed final arrangements for the sale until now. Norway is reportedly spending [redacted] for the tanks; this is a higher per-unit cost than paid by other countries. The Germans will be buying parts in Norway to offset purchase costs, however.

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